



Robbery suspect captured on surveillance camera.

'Lake Bandit' strikes again — steals \$2,000 from bank

FROM STAFF REPORTS

OAKLAND — A bank robber police are starting to call the "Lake Bandit" struck for the third time in less than a week Monday, taking almost \$2,000 from a Bank of America branch.

Police have hung the monicker on the robber because all his holdups have been at banks near Lake Merritt.

Investigators also have not ruled out the possibility the robber lives in the area of the lake, possibly in Adams Point and may be committing the robberies to support a drug habit.

Monday's holdup happened about 10:30 a.m. at the Bank of America branch, 300 Lakeside Drive, on the bottom level of the

Kaiser Center. Police said the man gave a teller a note demanding money and said, "Don't do anything stupid."

He also demanded \$100 and \$50 bills and got about \$2,000 before fleeing on foot, police said.

Sgt. Joe Aguirre said the same man also robbed the Wells Fargo branch, 2020 Webster St. on Thursday and American Savings, 3241 Lake Shore Ave., on May 5.

The robber is described as an African American in his late 30s to late 40s, between 6 feet and 6 feet 2 inches with a thin build. He has a mustache and goatee.

Anyone with information about the robber is asked to call police at 238-3951 or the FBI at 451-9782.

Police seek bank robber who made getaway on skateboard

FROM STAFF REPORTS

OAKLAND — A man who may have used a skateboard to flee from a holdup is being sought by police for at least three bank robberies.

To help in their search for the man, police on Friday released a bank surveillance picture of him.

Robbery Sgt. Jerry Aguirre said the man first robbed the Bank of Oakland on 8th Street on June 13.

He then robbed the Great Western Bank on Park Street in Alameda on July 18, and most recently, he held up the Citibank at 4100 Redwood Road in the Oakland hills July 22.

Police said at least one witness thought she saw the man use a skateboard to flee from the Citibank robbery.

In each robbery, the man made a verbal demand to a teller and simulated having a gun.

The average loss was more than \$1,000, police said.

Aguirre said the robber appears to be getting more aggressive in his demands and physical gestures, and police would like to apprehend him before he or anyone else is hurt.

The robber is described as a white man, 18 to 20, between 5-foot-10 and 6 feet, with a thin build and dark brown hair. He has worn an A's baseball cap and sunglasses in each robbery.

Anyone with information about the robber is asked to call police at 238-3951 during regular business hours or 238-3481 during other hours.



Suspect

Robber strikes credit union

SEP 17 1996

FROM STAFF REPORTS

OAKLAND — A robber with a gun and what looked like a stick of dynamite held up the main credit union for Oakland schoolteachers Friday morning, walking off with several thousand dollars.

The robbery occurred about 10:50 a.m. at the Provident Credit Union, 270 East 12th St., on the ground floor of a building that houses the Oakland Education Association. Four employees and a customer were in the office.

Robbery Sgt. Lou Cruz said the robber, who wore a ski mask, entered with a pistol in his hand and possibly a stick of dynamite in his waist band. He said he would blow up the office and demanded money.

He got cash from at least two tellers. He was last seen going westbound on East 14th Street from Third Avenue.

Police couldn't recall another incident in which someone with both a gun and a possible explosive device had committed a robbery in Oakland.

Cruz said the man was "real loud, real demanding and he was in and out within a minute."

The robber is described as an African-American man in his 20s, about 5 feet 8 weighing 190 pounds. He was wearing a black ski mask, and a green and black plaid jacket and blue jeans.

Anyone with information about the robbery is asked to call police at 238-3951.

Police ask public's help to identify bank robber

FROM STAFF REPORTS

OAKLAND — Authorities on Thursday released a surveillance camera photo of a man suspected of robbing several East Bay banks.

The picture was taken April 10 during a robbery at the Bank of America Dimond branch, 2154 MacArthur Blvd.

Police believe the same man is responsible for perhaps a half-dozen other bank robberies in Oakland and Emeryville going back to last month. Three of the Oakland robberies have been downtown.

Oakland robbery Sgt. Jerry Aguirre said the man enters the

banks in the late afternoon or just before closing time, gives a demand note to a teller and simulates a gun.

He usually gets several hundred dollars and flees on foot.

The robber is described as an African-American man, 25 to 30, between 5 feet, 7 inches and 5 feet, 9 inches and weighing 160 pounds. He has a medium complexion and mustache. He has worn a blue jacket and a blue and green baseball cap.

Anyone with information about the robber is asked to call police at 238-3951 or the FBI at 451-9782.

The '\$100 Bandit' hits fourth East Bay bank

FROM STAFF REPORTS

OAKLAND — A robber who either likes Ben Franklin, \$100 bills or both, held up his fourth bank in less than two weeks Monday morning. *fmj*

Besides robbing the Great Western Bank, 5050 Broadway, the robber, dubbed the "\$100 Bandit" by police because he always asks for \$100 bills, has also held up two other Oakland banks and one in Berkeley.

He held up the Wells Fargo Bank branch on Fruitvale Avenue in Oakland on Sept. 18; the Great Western branch, 2150 Shattuck Ave., in Berkeley on Sept. 16; and the Home Savings branch on Broadway in Oakland on Sept. 13.

Police think the robber is hitting so frequently to support a drug habit.

One FBI study has shown that 96 percent of all state bank robberies were committed by a person needing money for drugs.

Oakland Sgt. Ed Holloman said that in Monday's robbery, which happened about 10:40 a.m., the man waited patiently in line for a teller to become free.

He then made a verbal demand for \$100 bills, which have a picture of Ben Franklin on them, smiled when he was given the loot and calmly walked out of the bank.

He used the same methods in the other robberies, except in Berkeley, where he also gave the



Suspect

teller a note, Berkeley police Inspector Dan Wolke said.

No weapon has been seen in any of the robberies.

Losses have ranged from a few hundred dollars to more than \$1,000.

The robber is described as an African-American man, 35 to 40, about 5 feet 11 and 200 pounds, slightly unshaven with a mustache, and with about a 2-inch natural hair style.

Anyone with information is asked to call Oakland police, 238-3951, or Berkeley police, 644-6790.